

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Mark Weissenborn et al.

For : BUMPER SYSTEM WITH ENERGY ABSORBER

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR §1.97(b)

Pursuant to 37 CFR §§1.56 and 1.97(b), Applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the filing date of the above-referenced application.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed documents and evidence that consideration by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If it should be determined that any of the listed documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicants reserve the right to present to the Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

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For : BUMPER SYSTEM WITH ENERGY ABSORBER
Page : 2

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 16-2463.


Respectfully submitted,

MARK WEISSENBOEN ET AL.

By: Price, Heneveld, Cooper,
DeWitt & Litton

Date

Oct 27/03


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(616) 949-9610

DLG/MPD/msj

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| | APPLICANT(S) Mark Weissenborn et al. | |
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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| EXAMINER INITIAL | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | NAME | CLASS | SUB- CLASS | FILING DATE IF APPRO- PRIATE |
|---------------------|-----------------|------------|----------------------|-------|---------------|---------------------------------------|
| | 6 3 1 8 7 7 5 | 11/20/2001 | Heatherington et al. | | | |
| | 6 2 1 7 0 8 9 | 04/17/2001 | Goto et al. | | | |
| | 6 1 7 9 3 5 3 | 01/30/2001 | Heatherington et al. | | | |
| | 6 1 6 5 5 8 8 | 12/26/2000 | Wycech | | | |
| | 6 1 3 8 4 2 9 | 10/31/2000 | Baumgaertner | | | |
| | 6 0 4 2 1 6 3 | 03/28/2000 | Reiffer | | | |

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| EXAMINER INITIAL | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | COUNTRY | CLASS | SUB- CLASS | TRANSLA- TION |
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| | | | | | | Y N |
| | 5 6 3 5 4 6 | 10/06/1993 | EPO | | | |
| | 6 2 8 6 5 3 6 | 10/11/1994 | Japan | | | |
| | 2 4 4 9 1 | 02/02/1993 | Japan | | | |

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

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| EXAMINER INITIAL | |
| | Publication No. 2001/0017473 A1, Inventor Yamamoto, Publication Date 08/30/2001, Title BUMPER BEAM |

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| | 6 0 0 3 9 1 2 | 12/21/1999 | Schonhoff et al. | | | |
| | 6 0 0 0 7 3 8 | 12/14/1999 | Stewart et al. | | | |
| | 5 9 9 7 0 5 8 | 12/07/1999 | Pedersen | | | |
| | 5 8 5 7 7 3 4 | 01/12/1999 | Okamura et al. | | | |
| | 5 8 1 3 7 1 8 | 09/29/1998 | Masuda et al. | | | |
| | 5 7 9 9 9 9 1 | 09/01/1998 | Glance | | | |

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| EXAMINER INITIAL | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | COUNTRY | CLASS | SUB- CLASS | TRANSLA- TION |
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| | | | | | | Y N |
| | 2 2 7 7 5 0 | 10/08/1991 | Japan | | | |
| | 2 4 0 3 2 2 | 09/25/1989 | Japan | | | |

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| EXAMINER INITIAL | | |
| | | Publication No. 2003/0132640 A1, Inventor Weissenborn et al., Publication Date July 17, 2003, Title BUMPER ENERGY ABSORBER WITH FOAM AND NON-FOAM PIECES |

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|---------------------|--|-----------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|------------|-------------------|-------|---------------|---------------------------------------|
| | | 5 | 7 | 8 | 5 | 3 | 7 | 6 | 07/28/1998 | Nees et al. | | | |
| | | 5 | 7 | 5 | 6 | 1 | 6 | 7 | 05/26/1998 | Tamura et al. | | | |
| | | 5 | 6 | 7 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 5 | 09/30/1997 | Plank, Jr. et al. | | | |
| | | 5 | 5 | 6 | 0 | 6 | 6 | 2 | 10/01/1996 | Apgar, Jr. et al. | | | |
| | | 5 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 1 | 08/13/1996 | Rosasco | | | |
| | | 5 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 08/13/1996 | Rosasco | | | |

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| | | | | 6 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 03/13/1989 | Japan | | | | |
| | | 1 | 3 | 8 | 2 | 6 | 9 | 3 | 03/23/1988 | Soviet Union | | | | |

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

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| EXAMINER INITIAL | | |
| | | U.S. Application No. 10/163,838 filed on June 6, 2002 entitled BUMPER WITH INTEGRAL ENERGY ABSORBER AND BEAM |

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|---------------------|-----------------|------------|----------------|-------|---------------|---------------------------------------|
| | 5 5 4 0 0 1 6 | 06/30/1996 | Clausen | | | |
| | 5 4 2 5 5 6 1 | 06/20/1995 | Morgan | | | |
| | 5 4 0 7 2 3 9 | 04/18/1995 | Arai et al. | | | |
| | 5 4 0 4 9 7 4 | 04/11/1995 | Thum et al. | | | |
| | 5 3 8 5 3 7 5 | 01/31/1995 | Morgan et al. | | | |
| | 5 3 4 0 1 7 8 | 08/23/1994 | Stewart et al. | | | |

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| | | | | | | Y N |
| | 1 6 9 3 5 0 | 07/31/1986 | Japan | | | |
| | 1 7 2 6 0 3 | 08/04/1986 | Japan | | | |

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| EXAMINER INITIAL | | |
| | | |
| | | U.S. Application No. 10/163,586 filed on June 6, 2002 entitled BUMPER SYSTEM WITH FOAM AND NON-FOAM COMPONENTS |

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|---------------------|-----------------|------------|---------------|-------|---------------|---------------------------------------|
| | 5 2 7 7 4 6 9 | 01/11/1994 | Klippel | | | |
| | 5 2 3 2 2 6 1 | 08/03/1993 | Kuroda et al. | | | |
| | 5 2 1 9 1 9 7 | 06/15/1993 | Rich et al. | | | |
| | 5 1 8 0 6 2 9 | 01/19/1993 | Terada et al. | | | |
| | 5 1 5 4 4 6 2 | 10/13/1992 | Carpenter | | | |
| | 5 1 2 4 1 8 6 | 06/23/1992 | Wycech | | | |

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| | | | | | | Y N |
| | 3 3 4 3 7 0 9 | 06/20/1984 | Germany | | | |
| | 2 0 2 7 5 1 6 | 02/20/1980 | UK | | | |

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| EXAMINER INITIAL | | |
| | | U.S. Application No. 10/208,300 filed on July 30, 2002 entitled BUMPER FOR REDUCING PEDESTRIAN INJURY |

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| | 5 0 9 2 5 1 2 | 03/03/1992 | Sturru et al. | | | |
| | 5 0 4 0 3 9 9 | 08/20/1991 | Knapper et al. | | | |
| | 5 0 0 5 8 8 7 | 04/09/1991 | Kelman | | | |
| | 4 9 7 8 5 6 2 | 12/18/1990 | Wyceh | | | |
| | 4 9 4 0 2 7 0 | 07/10/1990 | Yamazaki et al. | | | |
| | 4 8 6 2 6 6 6 | 09/05/1989 | Kero | | | |

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|---------------------|-----------------|------------|---------|-------|---------------|------------------|
| | | | | | | Y N |
| | 6 4 5 7 2 1 | 11/08/1950 | UK | | | |
| | 7 6 6 1 8 6 | 06/22/1934 | France | | | |

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

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| EXAMINER INITIAL | | |
| | | Publication No. 2002/0149214 A1, Inventor Evans, Publication Date 10/17/02, Title BUMPER SYSTEM WITH FACE-MOUNTED ENERGY ABSORBER |

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|---------------------|-----------------|------------|-----------------|-------|---------------|---------------------------------------|
| | 4 8 5 6 8 3 3 | 08/15/1989 | Beekman | | | |
| | 4 8 1 1 9 7 9 | 03/14/1989 | Peter et al. | | | |
| | 4 7 9 6 9 4 6 | 01/10/1989 | Wilson et al. | | | |
| | 4 7 8 3 1 0 4 | 11/08/1998 | Watanabe et al. | | | |
| | 4 7 1 5 6 3 0 | 12/29/1987 | Manning | | | |
| | 4 7 1 4 2 8 7 | 12/22/1987 | Merkle | | | |

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| | | | | | | Y N |
| | 4 0 0 7 5 | 04/20/1932 | France | | | |
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| EXAMINER INITIAL | | |
| | | Publication No. 2002/0149213 A1, Inventor Weissenborn, Publication Date 10/17/02, Title BUMPER SYSTEM WITH FACE-ABUTTING ENERGY ABSORBER |

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|---------------------|-----------------|------------|----------------|-------|---------------|---------------------------------------|
| | 4 6 8 4 1 6 6 | 08/04/1987 | Kanodia | | | |
| | 4 5 7 8 9 7 9 | 04/01/1986 | Abe et al. | | | |
| | 4 4 3 3 5 6 5 | 02/28/1984 | Preller | | | |
| | 4 4 2 2 6 8 0 | 12/27/1983 | Goupy | | | |
| | 4 4 1 3 8 5 6 | 11/08/1983 | McMahan et al. | | | |
| | 4 3 8 6 7 9 9 | 06/07/1983 | Molnar | | | |

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| EXAMINER INITIAL | |
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| | Exhibit A (2001) includes four pictures of a prior art vehicle bumper system on a Ford Focus model vehicle, which includes a steel beam and an energy absorber that wraps around ends of the beam. The energy absorber includes a lower-density black foam body and has several higher-density white foam blocks inset into an inner surface of the black foam. (Note: Photo 1 shows an "extra" energy absorber loosely setting on a rear bumper system of a Ford Focus, the "extra" energy absorber being reversed to show its inner surface with the white foam blocks exposed.) |

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| | | 4 | 3 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 11/30/1982 | Wakamatsu | | | |
| | | 4 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 4 | 06/08/1982 | Buettner et al. | | | |
| | | 4 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 9 | 1 | 3 | 03/23/1982 | Kuroda | | | |
| | | 4 | 3 | 1 | 7 | 3 | 5 | 0 | 03/02/1982 | Sivachenko et al. | | | |
| | | 4 | 2 | 9 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 09/29/1981 | Muckli | | | |
| | | 4 | 2 | 4 | 8 | 0 | 7 | 2 | 02/03/1981 | Hasegawa et al. | | | |

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| | 4 2 4 1 1 4 6 | 12/23/1980 | Sivachenko et al. | | | |
| | 4 2 3 3 8 3 3 | 11/18/1980 | Balinski | | | |
| | 4 2 2 5 1 6 7 | 09/30/1980 | Buettner et al. | | | |
| | 4 2 2 1 4 1 3 | 09/09/1980 | Bonnetain | | | |
| | 4 1 6 5 1 1 3 | 08/21/1979 | Casse | | | |
| | 4 1 1 1 4 7 8 | 09/05/1978 | Pompei et al. | | | |

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| | | 4 | 0 | 9 | 5 | 8 | 3 | 1 | 06/20/1978 | Hagiwara et al. | | | |
| | | 4 | 0 | 6 | 6 | 2 | 8 | 5 | 01/03/1978 | Hall et al. | | | |
| | | 4 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 0 | 5 | 05/10/1977 | Saczawa, Jr. | | | |
| | | 4 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 7 | 03/22/1977 | Reidelbach et al. | | | |
| | | 3 | 9 | 8 | 9 | 2 | 9 | 2 | 11/02/1976 | Bank et al. | | | |
| | | 3 | 9 | 0 | 2 | 7 | 4 | 8 | 09/02/1975 | Bank et al. | | | |

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|---------------------|-----------------|------------|-------------------|-------|---------------|---------------------------------------|
| | 3 8 8 4 5 1 7 | 05/20/1975 | Davidson | | | |
| | 3 8 2 7 7 4 0 | 08/06/1974 | Golze et al. | | | |
| | 3 7 7 7 4 3 8 | 12/11/1973 | Brown | | | |
| | 3 7 6 8 8 5 0 | 10/30/1973 | Barton et al. | | | |
| | 3 7 6 2 1 9 5 | 10/02/1973 | Kitanosono et al. | | | |
| | 3 5 9 6 9 6 3 | 08/03/1971 | Phillips | | | |

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| | 3 3 9 2 5 6 6 | 07/16/1968 | Sporck | | | |
| | 2 7 3 4 4 0 7 | 02/14/1956 | Smith | | | |
| | 2 3 7 1 6 7 1 | 03/20/1945 | Blount et al. | | | |
| | 1 9 5 2 5 4 5 | 03/27/1934 | Gotshall | | | |
| | 1 9 2 7 4 4 2 | 09/19/1933 | Laufle | | | |
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| | 1 4 2 9 0 6 1 | 09/12/1922 | Coe | | | |
| | R E 1 5 2 5 5 | 12/27/1921 | Limacher | | | |
| | 1 3 6 2 4 3 9 | 12/14/1920 | Roberts | | | |
| | 1 2 4 7 5 6 9 | 11/20/1917 | Palmer | | | |
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| | 5 4 3 1 4 6 4 | 07/11/1995 | Jones et al. | | | |
| | 5 1 3 9 2 9 7 | 08/18/1992 | Carpenter et al. | | | |
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| | | 4 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 5 | 02/24/1981 | Goupy et al. | | | |
| | | 4 | 1 | 9 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 03/18/1980 | Peichl et al. | | | |
| | | 2 | 6 | 8 | 5 | 2 | 6 | 9 | 08/03/1954 | Manson | | | |
| | | 2 | 6 | 0 | 6 | 7 | 5 | 5 | 08/12/1952 | Samuels | | | |
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